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OUR NATIONAL PERIL.

Nations are of God as much as churches. "God has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell upon the face of the Earth." We are expressly commanded to *pray* for kings and rulers, and taught that rightful authority does not "bear the sword in vain."

Not since John Brown's attempt to liberate the slaves of the South, and his capture at Harper's Ferry has the public been so greatly agitated. It is the absorbing topic in both pulpit, press and fireside. What will be the outcome of our social and industrial troubles is a question which hangs upon every one's lips from the President down to the humblest and weakest citizen. Officials for the most part seem more interested in what to do to be re-elected to their present positions than what to do to save the country.

It is becoming more and more evident that it is not education but Christianity that civilizes: not military power but God that preserves nations. Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, when asked the secret of Great Britain's success held up a Bible and said, "This is the secret of English success." No nation while loyal to God was ever destroyed either by insurrection or an invading foe.

From this we take courage even in the impending crisis. It may be that it is impossible to reform it in peaceful ways. If so God will smash it that a purer government may rise out of the ruins. If it is not so, we have no fears of its demolition. God is still the God of nations, and He is still making "all things work together for good to them that love God."

To all our dear brethren and sisters who know God, but are living in fear of the clash of arms, carnage and death between the force of Capital and Labor, we say, rest in peace, for Jesus says: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

If the Capitalist has kept back by fraud

the hire of the laborers who have reaped down his fields. If he has "lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton," "condemned and killed the just," "the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of the Sabbath," and the capitalist's "riches are corrupted," his "garments are moth-eaten," his "gold and silver is cankered," and their rust shall be a witness against him, and shall eat his flesh "as it were fire." Jas. v, 1-6

One thing is certain: our legislatures have not kept pace with the social and industrial development of the country. Commerce and industry have stretched as far ahead of the laws relating to them as a railroad is ahead of an ox-cart for transportation. Our statutes are utterly inadequate for existing conditions.

When employers were more numerous and employees were scarcer; when the step between employee and employer was one which *any* person of energy and economy could make, the liberty to quit an employer was all the protection any laborer needed. Employers have diminished ninety per cent while employees have increased the same per cent. Fields of employment have also increased correspondingly in remoteness from each other. So it is clear that laws that were wholesome under former conditions are not applicable now.

Another great change is in the character of immigrants to our shore. Half a century ago the foreigners who came to us were respectable, law-abiding citizens. But since the close of the war, and the multiplicity of corporations and syndicates no attention has been paid to the *character* of the employees. Soulless corporations have dismissed American laborers because they could hire Hungarians, Poles, Bohemians, etc., cheaper.

They had no money to waste on moral character. The man who could move the most dirt for the least money took the place of better men morally. Now the employer is reaping what he sowed: he had no regard for humanity, and now those who had no humanity have turned to rend them. The Hamanic gallows which they had built for the destruction of Mordecai—the intelligent American laborer—becomes the instrument by which they lose not only what Haman (disreputable foreign labor) has earned for them, but what the Mordecaians have earned as well.

The supremacy of law can be maintained only when that law is just and right. There is no real power to govern except what God gives. "The powers that be are ordained of God," but God ordained nothing that is unjust or false. With him there is no partial-

ity. Color, race, birth, social and financial standing count for nothing; but "he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of Him."

How the issue is to be settled we dare not undertake to predict. If God sees no other way to cleanse our nation except to wash it in blood all attempted compromises will but deepen the flood that may be retarded but shall eventually overwhelm us. May God give us courage, hope and fidelity; and may none of us be overtaken in an hour when we think not, but let all watch and pray.

COMBINING FOR WORK.

We intended making some notes on the move of our Elkhart brethren to combine in quarterly meetings. We hardly need to say to our readers that we are very favorably impressed with the move and believe that a similar meeting could be held in other places with equally beneficial results.

Combining the strength of local congregations occasionally for strong work is sure to be promotive of good. An element of greatest strength with our Conservative brethren consists in their reunions on Love Feast occasions. Nothing did we miss since coming to the Brethren with more regret than those Christian reunions, and that is one good thing in the church we came out of that we should not have left behind. Congregations of a county and even of adjoining counties would be greatly stimulated and strengthened by an occasional reunion.

Such meetings could easily be held in Washington County, Md., Cambria, Somerset and Bedford counties, Penna., all over Ohio and Indiana, in Carroll County, Ill., Blackhawk, Tama, Benton, Poweshiek and Appanoose counties, Iowa, and in Thayer county, Nebraska, and Brown county, Kan.

We shall hail with joy the combining of our congregations every where in Christian reunions.

DISAPPOINTMENT.

Never to be disappointed means never to have expectations. No one can so accurately forecast the future, or read the workings of the human mind as not to meet with disappointment. It is peculiar to no class nor condition of people, but is a necessary accompaniment of finiteness.

The thoughts which follow are given to help us not only to avoid disappointment but to meet it wisely. In this the adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is most applicable. Disappointment that is avoided is much better than disappointment that is cured.